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SANLUISOBISPOCOUNTY

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Ten issues annually, distributed by e-mail and post

JANUARY 1999

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The San Luis Obispo County Emergency Communications Council (SLOECC) is the coordinating organization for amateur radio emergency communications in San Luis Obispo County. SLOECC and its constituent groups -- the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service ARES) -- include over 200 licensed amateur radio operators. Located throughout San Luis Obispo County, SLOECC members maintain reliable radio systems that do not depend upon regular sources of electric power, and are prepared to respond to the need for radio communications whenever regular systems fail, including such emergency conditions as fire, flood, hazardous materials spill, earthquake or other disaster.

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SLOECC-ARES/RACES TRAINING MEETING -- JANUARY 1999

SLOECC's next general meeting will be held on January 27, 1999, and will feature a "Tech Talk" by Dr. Richard Dickey, W6RKA. SLOECC's annual installation of officers is also on the evening's agenda.

Be there Wednesday, January 27, 1999, at 1930, SLO County Sheriff's Department Administration Building, 1545 Kansas Avenue (off Highway 1).

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FROM THE SLOECC PRESIDENT

Everyone is talking and writing about the end of the millennium and their Y2K concerns. Let us not forget that this is also the end of another century. For those of us who have been around for the major portion of the 20th Century, it offers us an opportunity to reflect on the events and trends we have witnessed.

After spending most of my life focussed on the grindstone and the day to day problems of making a living and raising a family, I have come to realize that I have not given much of myself back to society and the community. When I retired, several years ago, it became clear to me that I should become more involved in my community in some way. I became active in several volunteer organizations in Morro Bay and I also became a Ham.

When I joined the Estero Amateur Radio Club and the Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club, I became aware of SLOECC and joined that, too. Here I found a whole new subculture of people dedicating a lot of their time and energy to very worthwhile community service activities. The high quality of the people in SLOECC and their goals have really impressed me. Referring to a "subculture" is meant as a compliment. The vast majority of the citizens of SLO County are totally unaware that there is a group of volunteers working for the common welfare and available to render important help during emergencies.

I am honored and pleased to have been elected president of SLOECC. During 1999, I will work for and with the board of directors of SLOECC to continue the good works built by Jack Hunter and the staff. In these changing times, I will also work to help guide SLOECC in new directions to adapt to new challenges. I respect the roots of SLOECC and will work within the provisions of the organization charter and by-laws.

So, to end the 20th Century in the great SLOECC organization and to have the honor of being its president is a thrill for me. I look forward to working with all of you to plan for, train for and to meet the challenges of 1999. Feel free to contact me with your thoughts and inputs. Your suggestions, comments and constructive criticisms are welcome.

Onward and upward !

-- Don Anderson, KF6HIH
dander5772@aol.com
(805) 995 0780 phone and FAX

FROM THE DISTRICT EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

No, there are no surprises in this column. If you expected me to jump out in a new direction, stop reading here.

Over the past few years we have grown significantly (I don't mean waistlines!). We are a far more effective and professional group than we were in 1993-94. Under Ron's and Jack's leadership we have become a viable organization. For me, it will be a challenge to help maintain that growth. Jack has left us well staffed and prepared.

Jack is not gone or forgotten (well, you can hope... Just kidding Jack!). He is working at the Section Emergency Coordinator level to promote better communication between the various groups in this three-county Section.

By the time you read this we will have had at least one meeting between the DECs and our SEC (Jack). One of our goals is to achieve a certain degree of standardization between the groups in the section. This is not an effort to make us all think and function alike. It is, however, an attempt to help us be able to provide assistance to our sister organizations when necessary.

As those of you who attended the November general meeting know, we are looking at the new packet software. It appears to be superior to much of the material we are currently using, and is designed with ARES in mind. Contrary to what some of you have heard, it does not allow another user access to the files in your hard drive.

Another suggestion we've received is identification badges (cards) that are similar. This is a long range goal that would ultimately help prevent confusion among law enforcement agencies if our members were asked to work in one of the other counties.

One other consideration would be the optional use of the infamous yellow shirts that have been adopted by the groups in the other two counties. Again, the goal is to help standardize the image. We do have our vests, and will probably be looking for a supplier to get more of them. They do an excellent job of identification, especially in this county.

None of these things are set in concrete. During the next year we may face challenges that we have not even considered. If you have ideas, suggestions, comments or criticisms, now you know where to find me:

-- William Peirce (Bill), KE6FKS
P.O. Box 1651
Morro Bay, CA 93443
772-2004 (phone/fax)
wpeirce@thegrid.net
wpeirce@fix.net
Pager (alpha dispatch desk) 546-1131
(Give the operator your message.)

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MORE KUDOS FOR FEMA EXERCISE

Hams who participated in last fall's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Response Exercise received warm praise for their efforts. In a letter to participants, County Administrator/Emergency Services Director David Edge commented:

> *"Over three humdred and fifty people participated In each of the two exercises... in September and... November.... The high level of commitment to emergency preparedness reflects the efforts and dedication of individuals such as yourself. The citizens of the County are well served by the men and women who participate in emergency preparedness programs. I encourage you to stay involved and take advantage of training opportunities offered by the County's Office of Emergency Services."*

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FOR A GOOD TIME, CALL ROXY*

NCS volunteers are needed for the Tuesday evening ARES/RACES Net on 147.36+. If you have not "assumed the position," here's your chance. It's great fun, and excellent training for emergency communications work. If you're serious about helping in an emergency, this is a fine place to start.

Call Roxy, K6ELO, Net Coordinator, at 528-0873.

** The Editor takes full responsibility for this headline. File all complaints with the Chaplain.*

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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY ARES/RACES/SLOECC
1999 CALENDAR

January
12th - SLOECC Board Meeting
27th - SLOECC General Meeting - Tech Talk (Dr. Richard Dickey, W6RKA)

February
9th - SLOECC Board Meeting
24th - SLOECC General Meeting - Annual Gadget Party
(Max, Richard, Ron, et al. will show us how to build the necessary "gadgets" we need -- connectors, portable J-Poles, battery packs, etc.)

March
9th - SLOECC Board Meeting
24th - SLOECC General Meeting – ECC "Virtual Tour"
29th - Fifth Annual Communications Symposium

April
13th - SLOECC Board Meeting
28th - SLOECC General Meeting – Comm Shop Tech Check
OES Drill -- Camp Roberts (Max Sicher, WD6Z)

May
11th - SLOECC Board Meeting
26th - SLOECC General Meeting - Training Exercise

June
8th - SLOECC Board Meeting
23rd - SLOECC General Meeting – CDF/ECC 10

July
13th - SLOECC Board Meeting

August
10th - SLOECC Board Meeting
28th - PG&E Siren Test

September
7th - SLOECC Board Meeting
22rd - SLOECC General Meeting – Training Exercise

October
2nd - Annual SLOECC Bar-B-Cue
12th - SLOECC Board Meeting
27th - SLOECC General Meeting – Media Night
Guest Speakers from local newspapers, radio and TV

November
9th - SLOECC Board Meeting
17th - SLOECC General Meeting - Elections

December
7th - SLOECC Board Meeting

6.94 MACHINE GETS TONE(Y)

Due to the addition of a high-power paging transmitter at the site of the WB6 I I Y Van Lyons Memorial Repeater, south of Arroyo Grande, some heavy interference has been encountered by those who monitor that "6.94" machine. The repeater's control operator has introduced a CTCSS (PL) tone that has nearly solved the problem. That tone is 103.5 Hz. and it is necessary most of the time, now. Charlie (WB6FMC) occasionally removes the tone requirement (sometimes for the Gold Coast Net on Monday nites), but it would be wise to program your transceivers to use the tone on a fulltime basis. We never know when the tone will be required, and in the event that it isn't, it won't hurt to have it operating in any case.

This information should be circulated on local nets and in rag-chews, so that everyone will become aware of the requirement, so no surprises need be encountered by our local users in the Central Coast area.

-- Bob Gromer, KB6RG

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KE6GFV TEMPORARILY FLOORED (but you can't keep a good man down!)

Conrad Noble, KE6GFV, a SLOECC member who also calls the 147.000 NTS-VHF Net, regularly, found himself in a real-time emergency situation just before Christmas. It was on a Monday afternoon that he started to get up from his favorite easy-chair, but his leg muscles did not cooperate and he went on down, onto the floor. For a very long time he endeavoured to get up, trying to pull up on furniture, and attempting to reach a telephone or a radio or something with which to summon help.

The hours rolled by (very slowly, I'm sure) and Conrad was unable to get to his H-T, his telephone, or anything that would permit signalling for assistance.

Tuesday passed, and Conrad didn't make any of his regularly scheduled activities. Wednesday morning came around and still he was unable to get up off the floor. Finally, about 1000 hours Wednesday, a friend of Conrad's, fearing he might be in some sort of trouble, went to his home, saw the car, but got no response from his knock. He got the apartment manager to allow access and discovered Conrad on the floor. He was rushed to the Arroyo Grande E-R and subsequently spent a week there, finally getting out on the Tuesday before Christmas Day.

Conrad is doing fine, now. But, that had to be a very scary situation, and it leads me to think about how we prepare for county wide and major emergencies, but somehow forget to get prepared for the possible, personal emergencies. If a telephone or an H-T had been situated on a low table or shelf, Conrad could have struggled over to it and called on one of us for help.

My goodness, I don't have my H-Ts located where I could get to them in such cases. But, I don't live alone, either. But, it gives us some food for thought, toward preparation for possible personal emergencies, doesn't it?

Have a very Happy and Productive New Year -- and remember the Boy Scouts' motto -- Be Prepared. You might be glad you were!

-- Bob Gromer – KB6RG
VicePresident/Webmaster/South County AEC

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Visit the SLOECC Web-site at:

< http://www.surfari.net/~sloecc >

Not just for Hams; It has something for everyone.

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NORTH SB COUNTY ARES MEETING CHANGE

North Santa Barbara County ARES has changed its monthly meeting to the 3rd Thursday of the month starting in January.

-- Jim Black, N6VNU
925-6045

CAL POLY ARC OFFERS LICENSE CLASS AND EXAM

The Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club will be holding an Amateur Radio licensing exam at 6:30pm on Wednesday, 10 February 1999 (please be prompt). Walk-ins will be accepted, however, reservations are preferred. Please call 756-2737 and leave your name, telephone number (in case we must cancel due to severe weather) and which test(s) you would like to take.

To prepare candidates for the exam, the CPARC is conducting a five-week class on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30pm, January 11 through February 10, and will cover all of the material necessary to pass the Technician (No-Code) Exam. The class and the exam are held at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) [adjacent to Sheriff's Department on Kansas Avenue, between Morro Bay and SLO].

- Costs: For the class: $5 + book (appx. $25). For the exam: $6.45 (Novice test elements are free)
- Credit for previous elements: If you have a CSCE from a previous session for which you would like credit, you must bring the original and a copy to the exam.
- Upgrades: If you are upgrading, you must bring your original license and a copy to the exam.
- Bring: A #2 pencil, an eraser, a blue ink pen and a photo ID or two other forms of ID to the exam. Personal calculators must have all memories cleared and must have no built-in formulas (pi is OK).

You do not need to attend the class to take the exam -- but it might help! For more information contact the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club at 756-2737.

-- Rick Gilligan, N6NL

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SLOECC WEB SITE HAS A NEW LOOK...

SLOECC's Web-site is undergoing a few changes. Now that the holidays are history, The subdued holly background has given way to a dark blue, textured background. The homepage is becoming so full of information and links; that we are finding it necessary to develop a special page for links. Other changes are on the board for the site, and we will announce them as they progress.

...AND A NEW ADDRESS...

The SLOECC (San Luis Obispo County Emergency Communication Council) ARES-RACES Web-site is coming into its own, with its own Name. The new URL (Web address) is:

<http://www.surfari.net/~sloecc/>

... AND LOOKS FOR NEW LINKS

For the time being, your "Favorite" or "Bookmark" shortcuts will take you to a linking page that will permit your clicking your way to the usual site, at its new address. You should, however, reset your bookmarks to the new URL, as the link will only be available for two or three months.

Meanwhile, I will be contacting all those fine sites that are linked into SLOECC and update the WebMasters on the new information. When I went for this vanity callsign, I had no idea how much effort would be required to make it work for the ease of all our viewers. Whew!!!

Anyway, the start of a new year seemed to be a good time for this transition. My eMail address has taken a slight change, as well. The best way to record it in your address book is:
<kb6rg@surfari.net>
and the 'magic' at Surfari ISP will be sure that I receive my mail.

Thanks for the extra effort and Have a GREAT New Year,

-- Bob Gromer, KB6RG (aka x-WA7NMJ)

--- P.S. Here's a site that's A MUST SEE! ---
http://home.earthlink.net/~wwclick/index.html
--- I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. My best 2 U, ---

(Editor's note: Thank YOU for the extra effort, Robert!)

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SLOECC OFFICERS -- 1999

Don Anderson, KF6HIH (Estero Bay), President
Robert Gromer, KB6RG (South County), Vice President
Richard Dickey, W6RKA (SLO), Secretary-Treasurer
Dave Spencer, KF6PKU (Cal Poly) Director (1997-1999)
Max Sicher, WD6Z (Estero Bay), Director (1998-2000)
Robert Alberti, W6TTX (North County), Director (1999-2001)

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The SLOECC NEWSLETTER is distributed monthly (except August and December) to members and friends of theSan Luis Obispo County Emergency Communications Council. E-mail is the preferred method of delivery; please notify the Editor of any change in your e-mail status and address. Deadline: 10th of each month. Submissions may be edited space or style. Contact: Bob Alberti, W6TTX, via:

E-MAIL at W6TTX@fix.net PHONE at 461-5993 FAX at 461-0554
USMAIL at 9001 Rocky Canyon Road, Atascadero 93422-4715

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